

## NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Mike supports a strong national defense and has fought hard for Maine's shipyards in Portsmouth and Bath. He also helped to successfully preserve and expand the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) facility and preserve jobs at the Maine Military Authority in Limestone. Mike believes that we must live up to our shared commitment to our nation's service members while they are on active duty as well as when they come home and take off the uniform. To read more about Mike's work to help veterans, [click here](#).

- Supporting Maine's Defense Industries

- Addressing Iraq and Afghanistan

In addition to a strong national defense, Mike supports the homeland security efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement, first responders and border security officers. He supported legislation that addresses criminal rehabilitation and hiring of additional law enforcement officers. He also has worked to continue and expand grant programs that ensure law enforcement is adequately equipped and state and local criminal justice programs are fully funded.

- Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations

- Supporting Local Law Enforcement

While Mike supports a strong national defense and homeland security efforts, he believes that diplomatic, economic, social and cultural influences should be the fundamentals of our nation's international relations. The use of military force should always be the choice of last resort. Mike cares deeply about protecting the rights of people worldwide and is a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He believes that our country has a moral responsibility to promote stability and prevent the spread of violent conflict. Mike understands that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has developed into a tragedy of epic proportions. He looks forward to the day when a secure Israel can live in peace with its neighbors, including a sovereign, democratic, and peaceful Palestinian state. Mike believes that the situation in Iran should be addressed through diplomatic means. Mike remains fervently opposed to a preemptive strike or an invasion of Iran.

- International Relations - Protecting Human Rights

- Working Toward Peaceful Solutions in the Middle East

- Addressing Iran

### National Defense

## Supporting Maine's Defense Industry

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS): Mike fully supports the roughly thousands of experienced civilian trades people, naval officers and enlisted personnel at PNS who provide the US Navy with quality overhaul work in a safe, timely and affordable manner. Recently, Mike sent a letter to the Chief of Naval Operations requesting that Portsmouth Naval Shipyard be given the designation of planning yard for the Navy's new Joint Multi-Mission Submersible (JMMS) project. Mike has also written letters to the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee supporting full funding for the Waterfront Support Facility at PNS. The existing facility is over 65 years old and was not constructed for its current use. Space and structure limitations cause significant time and travel delays to accomplish each task. There are numerous occupational safety and health deficiencies, which cannot be corrected with current funding levels. A new, modern facility would take the PNS workers' productivity and elevate it from the gold to the platinum standard.

Bath Iron Works (BIW): Mike believes the BIW workforce is dedicated and talented, whether they are building traditional DDG-51s or the new DDG-1000. In past Navy discussions with Congress on the status and future of DDG-1000, Mike engaged with the Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations to ensure the stability and long-term employment of the workforce at BIW. Mike is confident the BIW shipyard is well-positioned to handle the Navy's shifting needs and priorities. He elicited assurances from the Secretary that the Navy will continue to recognize the contributions and potential of the workforce at BIW.

DFAS Limestone: Mike helped to successfully save the Defense Financing and Accounting Service (DFAS) office in Limestone, Maine from closing as part of the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC). He took the lead on advocating for the dedication and overall excellence of the Maine DFAS employees. By highlighting the case for the quality of life and low operating cost of the Limestone facility, Mike ensured the long-term sustainability of DFAS Limestone. Instead of closing the facility as originally recommended, the Defense BRAC Commission nearly doubled the workforce in Limestone.

Maine Military Authority (MMA) Limestone: Mike was worked to obtain \$50 million for Humvee maintenance operations for Limestone's Maine Military Authority in the fiscal year 2010 Defense Appropriations bill. MMA Limestone refurbishes vehicles for the Army National Guard. Mike helped secure a \$20 million increase over the \$30 million that was originally budgeted for the facility for fiscal year 2010, which led to jobs being saved and increased maintenance capacity for the Army National Guard.

## Addressing Iraq and Afghanistan

Mike continues to honor the men and women of the armed forces who put their lives on the line in Iraq and Afghanistan. He believes that the best way to support our troops is by advocating a new strategy for bringing peace, stability, and security to the Middle East region. He consistently works to bring our brave men and women home in a safe and timely manner.

Mike does not believe that the problems in Iraq will be solved by U.S. military strength alone. He believes that political, economic and social efforts are required to stabilize the Iraqi economy, re-establish an adequate quality-of-life for Iraqi citizens, and build trust and peaceful relations within Iraq and between Iraq and the rest of the world.

Mike continues to support a firm commitment to withdraw troops from Iraq and create a clear definition of goals and objectives in Afghanistan, including a determination of necessary resources and a timeline for withdrawal.

While Mike does not support increased funding for a troop surge in Afghanistan, he unequivocally supports the President's declared goals of defeating al Qaeda and reducing the threat of global terrorism. Mike commends the

President's emphasis on benchmarks for success, a timeline for withdrawal and a major focus on training and developing the Afghan military and police forces.

Although he has overwhelming confidence in the ability and dedication of the U.S. military to undertake this mission, he continues to have questions about the effectiveness of committing our troops to a prolonged conflict that could last for several years, involve tens of thousands of troops, and impose huge financial costs on American taxpayers. Mike has decided to reserve final judgment on the plan outlined by the President recently as Congress receives additional details and moves forward with its oversight responsibilities. He will now join Congress in asking several critical questions that remain to be answered, such as the extent of our Allies' support, the details of how we will pay for this new plan and the effectiveness of efforts to battle corruption in Afghanistan.

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## Homeland Security

### Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations

The tragic events of September 11th, 2001 deeply affected us all. It is important to remember those we lost, honor the sacrifice and bravery of our first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirm our commitment to defending the United States against all future threats. Mike believes that one of the most important ways that we can serve the memory of those who were lost is to take action — to make positive changes to our nation's strength and security that will help us prevent another serious attack.

In July of 2004, the bipartisan 9/11 Commission submitted its recommendations to Congress on how to better protect America from terrorism. Unfortunately, for the next two and half years, the Congress failed to enact most of these recommendations into law.

H.R. 1, the Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007, was the first bill introduced in the 110th Congress. On January 9th 2007, Mike voted for H.R. 1, which the House approved 299 to 128. On July 27th, Mike voted for the House-Senate Conference Report on H.R. 1, which the House approved 371 to 40. As a sponsor of the bill, Mike was pleased that it received wide bipartisan support and that the President signed it into law on August 3rd. It was a moment where legislators from both parties could come together and make a positive change to help protect our country.

The legislation enacted critical seaport and air cargo screening requirements; improved the communications capabilities of first responders; strengthened intelligence and information sharing with local law enforcement; and implemented stronger measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

### Supporting Local Law Enforcement

Mike has long been a strong advocate of fully funding the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program. These programs provide funding to local agencies to hire officers and procure the technology and equipment.

With changing times, our law enforcement must also change and adapt to threats as they emerge. Each year Mike works hard to obtain federal funds for vitally important law enforcement equipment and programs.

A Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA) review of Methamphetamine lab incidents in both several years ago highlighted MDEA's need for acquiring a vehicle and equipment to improve its ability to respond to such incidents. Mike fought to secure \$200,000 for the agency's needs and they are now better able to respond to Methamphetamine lab incidents. Resources received as a direct result of the funding include: A Meth lab response vehicle, equipment for use by incident officers, training for those officers, Meth awareness training for all first responders and awareness training for communities through the Meth Watch Program.

Maine's Game Wardens now have enhanced capability to perform their mission due to close to \$1 million Mike was able to secure for them. Game wardens relied on paper and manual processes, limited access to electronic information and intelligence, limited accesses to the State of Maine network infrastructure, and paper maps to perform their jobs. Extensive and frequent travel outside their patrol areas was necessary to submit required information and access systems or computer resources. Funding secured by Mike led to mobile offices, software, and connectivity in every Game Warden patrol vehicle. Wardens now have access to up-to-date- electronic mapping software interfaced with GPS units to support search and rescue responsiveness. This enables wardens to perform all aspects of their job and access intelligence systems from their truck, therefore keeping them in their assigned areas where their services can be rapidly deployed to support the people of Maine.

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## International Relations

Mike, who is a member of the Human Rights Caucus, cares deeply about protecting the rights of people worldwide. Mike believes that our country has a moral responsibility to promote stability and prevent the spread of violent conflict. There are too many instances in the world today where basic human rights are being violated. Unfortunately, in many situations, too little is being done to rectify the tragic situation:

**China:** In China, the government's human rights record remains poor. There have been numerous recorded incidents of human rights violations particularly regarding the Chinese regime's crackdown in Tibet. Reports abound of human rights violations against Christians, Uyghur Muslims, Falun Gong, democracy advocates, AIDS victims, journalists, and lawyers in China.

In response to these violations, Mike has signed a number of letters to the President of the People's Republic of China urging him to protect the freedoms of the Chinese people. He has also voted for a House Resolution which called on the

Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and enter into a substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

Sudan: An estimated 2 million people have died in Sudan over the past two decades due to war-related causes and millions have been displaced from their homes. In Darfur alone, an estimated 2.61 million people have been affected by the conflict. More than 1.8 million have been internally displaced, while 200,000 have become refugees in neighboring countries and 70,000 have died (according to the United Nations).

In the past, Mike joined a large group of his colleagues in cosponsoring legislation which encouraged divestiture from companies that do business in Darfur and prohibited federal contracts with such companies. He also sent a letter to Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon asking that the UN continue to take an active role in attempts to resolve this crisis. Mike joined a bipartisan group of House members in signing a letter urging the Secretary-General to increase his focus on this issue. Mike is also an active member of the Sudan Caucus and continues to push to provide aid to those in need in Sudan.

Colombia: Violence towards the labor class and political opposition continues throughout Colombia. The UN has recently reported that, from 2007-2008, at least 296 civilians were killed by Colombian security forces. Of those, in 2007 alone, 38 labor activists were murdered. Of the 2,262 labor activists murdered between 1991-2006, almost 400 were killed during President Uribe's Administration. Paramilitary organizations have been linked to massacres and narco trafficking.

Mike has taken a leadership role in the House of Representatives against human rights violations in Colombia, and the impact of trade agreements with such nations. Mike has held several meetings with Colombian labor leaders and government officials. Mike will continue to adamantly oppose any free-trade agreement with a country that allows such atrocities to occur against their working class.

#### Working Towards Peaceful Solutions in the Middle East

Instability in the Middle East continues to cause violence, anguish, and unnecessary death. The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has developed into a tragedy of epic proportions. Far too many lives have been lost. Mike believes peace will not come to the region until two independent, democratic nations exist side-by-side in respect, mutually-assured security, and economic prosperity.

While a majority of people on both sides of the conflict long for peace, progress remains slow. Mike believes the most important step forward would be to bring about an end to the threat of terrorism and violence. While Mike allows that Israel has the right to defend itself from terrorist actions, at the same time, he also believes that Israel must show restraint so that greater mutual trust can be built.

Mike looks forward to the day when a secure Israel can live in peace with its neighbors, including a sovereign, democratic, and peaceful Palestinian state. If we are ever going to reach that goal, a goal shared by a majority of the world, then the United States and the international community must remain diplomatically engaged in creating dialogue and encouraging safety and security for all peoples of the region.

#### Addressing Iran

For many years, a battle has been fought within Iranian society between those who wish to move forward toward a free and democratic society and those who wish to remain in power through oppression and religious extremism. Mike remains fervently opposed to a preemptive strike or an invasion of Iran. He believes that the situation in Iran should be addressed through diplomatic means and wants to work with our allies to support democratic efforts to create a free, stable and prosperous Iran. A military strike or invasion would set this process back by years, and harm our efforts to

secure peace and stability in the region.

With that in mind, Mike has cosponsored two past resolutions. The first resolution stated that, absent a national emergency created by an attack, the President shall consult with Congress, and receive specific authorization pursuant to law from Congress, prior to initiating military force against Iran. The second resolution urged the President to increase economic, political and diplomatic pressure on Iran. Unfortunately, this non-binding resolution has been greatly misunderstood and misrepresented. It did not declare war on Iran or call for a naval blockade. In fact, the legislation explicitly stated it should not be construed as an authorization of the use of force against Iran.

More recently, Mike supported legislation (H.R. 1985, H.R. 2194 and H.R. 1327) to address and dissuade Iran's current nuclear ambitions by imposing targeted petroleum sanctions and taxes on the government of Iran. Mike does not believe that Iran should be allowed to develop nuclear weapons and he strongly supports the President's initiative to reengage diplomatically to encourage Iran to adhere to the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

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